

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02545 160332Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-06 L-01 OES-02 SS-14 PM-04 SP-02
EB-04 DLOS-02 INR-05 /051 W
-----082830 160337Z /65
R 152002Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5529
INFO USUN NEW YORK 0372

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2545

STADIS////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOR ARA; L; OES

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS PBOR HA US
SUBJECT: NAVASSA ISLAND

REF: (A)STATE 153592 (B)PORT AU PRINCE 1456

1. REF A DESCRIBING NOAA'S INTENT TO CARRY OUT FISHERY
RESOURCES SURVEY OF NAVASSA ISLAND JULY 7-13 HIGHLIGHTS NEED
FOR U.S. TO TAKE POSITION ON ITS CLAIM TO THE ISLAND.

2. PRESUMABLY BY COINCIDENCE, PORT AU PRINCE NEWSPAPER LE
MATIN RAN COLUM JULY 9 REMINDING READERS OF PRESIDENT'S
APRIL DECREE PROMULGATING 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND 12-MILE
TERRITORIAL SEA. IT POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE OF DECREE AND
SPECULATED THAT ONE OF REASONS FOR DECREE WOULD BE TO STOP
INTRUSION OF FOREIGN FISHING BOATS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF
MARINE FAUNA.

3. DECREE IS IN FACT A SERIOUS STATEMENT OF GOH POLICY
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ON ITS TERRITORIAL SEA, AND FISHING AND ECONOMIC ZONES.
ASSUMING GOH WILL FOLLOW UP ITS DECREE WITH DISCUSSIONS
IN UN WITH BOTH CUBA AND JAMAICA, WE WOULD EXPECT NAVASSA
ISSUE WILL INEVITABLY ALSO BE RAISED SINCE NAVASSA IS AN
IMPORTANT BASE POINT FOR ANY GOH CLAIM VIS-A-VIS CUBA AND
JAMAICA.

4. WE ASSUME PRIMARY U.S. INTEREST IN NAVASSA REMAINS THE MAINTENANCE OF NAVIGATIONAL FACILITIES ON NAVASSA, AND THAT U.S. HAS NO OTHER IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN NAVASSA PER SE. PREPETUATION OF U.S. CLAIM TO NAVASSA, THEREFORE, NOT ESSENTIAL FOR REALIZATION OF PRINCIPAL U.S. INTEREST WITH RESPECT TO NAVASSA. MOREOVER IT COULD LEAD US INTO WEARISOME DEFENSE OF OUR CLAIM BEFOR OTHER INTERESTED CARIBBEAN STATES WITH ALL THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISADVANTAGES THAT ENTAILS FOR BIG UNCLE SAM. IN FACT BY TAKING THE POSITIVE STEP OF RELINQUISHING OUR CLAIM TO THE ISLAND, WE WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE OUR GOAL OF OBTAINING LONG-TERM RIGHTS TO KEEP NAVIGATIONAL FACILITIES OPERABLE EVEN IF ISLAND FALLS UNDER ANOTHERS STATE'S JURISDICTION. IT WOULD ALSO SPARE US NUISANCE OF DEFENDING CLAIM AGAINST HAITI AND OTHERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, HA, US
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